

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A steel intaglio printing plate comprising:

a printing plate surface having at least one first area with steel intaglio structures and at least one second area with embossing microstructures, and

at least one of

a height or a lateral structural size of the embossing microstructures is of an order of magnitude in the range of 5 to 100 microns, and

a height or a lateral structural size of the embossing microstructures is of an order of magnitude of less than 1 micron such that a diffractive relief structure can be embossed therewith,

wherein parts of the embossing microstructures closest to the printing plate surface are located 20 microns to 100 microns below the printing plate surface.
- 2–8. (Canceled).
9. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein parts of the embossing structures closest to the printing plate surface, or a molding plane, are located at least 40 microns away from the printing plate surface or molding plane, respectively.
10. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein parts of the embossing structures closest to the printing plate surface, or a molding plane, are located at most 60 microns away from the printing plate surface or molding plane, respectively.
11. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein the second area with embossing structures has an area size of less than 400 square millimeters.

12. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of second areas with embossing structures constitute an embossing structure grid.

13. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein the second area with embossing structures is separated from the first area with steel intaglio structures, or from another second area with embossing structures, by a separation bar extending as far as the printing plate surface or a molding plane, the separation bar having a width of at least 0.5 millimeters.

14–18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) A method for producing a steel intaglio printing plate, comprising:

- producing steel intaglio structures in a steel intaglio printing plate,
- producing embossing microstructures in the steel intaglio printing plate by engraving such that:

parts of the embossing microstructures closest to a surface of the steel intaglio printing plate are located 20 to 100 microns below said surface, and

at least one of

a height or a lateral structural size of the embossing microstructures is of an order of magnitude in the range of 5 to 100 microns, and

a height or a lateral structural size of the embossing microstructures is of an order of magnitude of less than 1 micron such that a diffractive relief structure can be embossed therewith.

20–25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 11, wherein the second area with embossing structures has an area size of less than 100 square millimeters.